

School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

Friday 28th November 2025

Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents and Carers,

This past two weeks has seen a busy time in school as the staff team engage in lots of professional development and coaching as part of our cycle and focus on school improvement before we enter into the festive season of nativities performances, fairs and all the other fantastic events that come with it.

Teachers in the school have worked in pairs and triads focusing on writing and how we can successfully engage all participants to achieve success in lessons through effective task design as well as using our assessment for learning strategies to accurately identify and target next steps for children. We engage in these cycles regularly and thoroughly enjoy working in collaboration with one another. My thanks to all the teachers for always striving to improve our practice for the children and supporting one another.

We also had a visit last week from other headteachers in the local learning community including Alex Evans the new head of Sidmouth College who all commented on the engaged atmosphere in classrooms. Collaborating and sharing ideas with other local schools is hugely beneficial and it was affirming to hear the intention of Sidmouth College to provide a rich transition experience for pupils who choose to go there. Similarly, we have enjoyed having an oracy outreach offer from Colyton which is taking place in the school with our year 5 cohort.

The school is also about to embark on a trial of Artificial intelligence technology to aid the assessment of writing in the upper years. We are very excited about the possibilities that it offers and the impact it could have on the education of our young people. Please do take the time to investigate if you would like to. (See link below)

<https://olex.ai/>

Message cont. overleaf

www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

01395 568300

✉ admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

For any Twilight after school club matters, please phone the main school number.

Message from Mr Pope Cont.....

It was lovely to see so many parents attend our parent's evenings last week and thank you to everyone for attending. We hope that you found these meetings informative and beneficial.

We have lots more events coming up that we are looking forward to seeing everyone at including the Nativity and Carol performances. It is a really exciting time for the children and we hope that you all are able to come.

The Christmas Fair is also happening on Saturday and some of the staff will be joining us to celebrate it and help run the stalls. My thanks to everyone who has been involved and the efforts that go into it. It really is an incredible event and undertaking and once again we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Best Wishes,

Mr Pope



Pre-School



We had a lovely walk to Farthings this morning 😊 We noticed frost and ice on the ground and liked kicking the Autumn leaves as we walked!! We saw some sheep in a field and visited the chickens. Thank you to Anna for hosting us again!!



Reception



Reception had two trips out last week where they learnt to cross the road safely for Road Safety Week, and they also counted the cars that passed them on the main road - which was 54 in just 10 minutes for Maths Week as well as worked out which colour car was the most popular! The following day we went on a frosty Autumnal seasonal walk to Farthings and saw their new sheep in the field and the chickens.

Year 2



Year 2 enjoyed maths week. Working together and individually to solve problems each day was fun!

Year 4

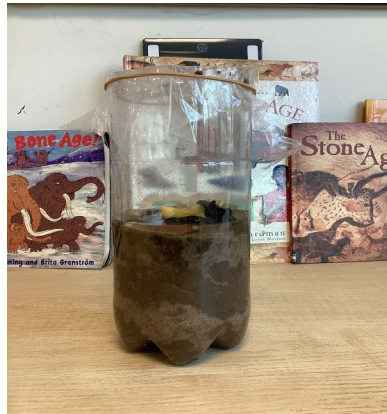
Year 4 had a great trip to the Roman Baths in Bath as part of their History curriculum. The children started early in the morning - an 8.00am coach trip on which they were all very well behaved both there and back.

In the Roman Baths, children had the opportunity to tour in groups, listening to information through their handheld guides. After lunch, they split into three groups to do activities including learning how the Romans cleaned themselves, what they wore (dressing up), designing mosaics, building a Roman arch, constructing pillars, digging for artefacts and identifying them and using iPads to find different shaped Roman stones.

Behaviour at the Baths was fantastic and we'd like to say a huge thank you to the PTFA for helping to fund our travel there.



Year 3



Over the past two weeks, Year 3 have been making their own wormeries in Adventure Island. They put layers of sand and soil in a plastic bottle with a handful of food scraps on the top. They collected worms in the digging pit and then added a cling film lid with air holes before wrapping the bottle in plastic to make it dark. The wormeries were brought into the classroom and Year 3 regularly observed how the layers were mixed up. The class had to release the worms earlier than planned as some of them tried to escape!

Year 1



Year One had a fantastic visit from Carly, who told us all about the Tar Barrels in Ottery St. Mary, as part of our local history topic. The children were fascinated to hear that Carly first carried a barrel when she was nine and that generations of her family have carried barrels. They enjoyed trying on the gloves and getting to lift a barrel. It was very heavy! Thank you very much to Carly for sharing such an incredible local tradition with Year One

Year 6



Year 6 have started our Mini Police unit. This week, we talked about the roles and responsibilities of being a police officer and even were able to try on their kit!

PTFA Update

The PTFA are getting into the festive spirit with lots of exciting events and activities planned! Please check our Dates for Your Diary and keep an eye on our posters for full details – but here's how you can get involved:

Book Your Santa's Grotto Tickets

Spaces are limited and sell quickly – first come, first served!

[Book Here](#)

Volunteer at the Christmas Fair

We'd love your help to make the fair magical!

[Sign up to Volunteer](#)

Christmas Hamper Donations – by Friday 5th December

Please bring in your hamper items by this date — full details are on the poster.

Thank you for your support in helping us make this festive season one to remember!

Waitrose Community Matters Appeal – Keep It Going!

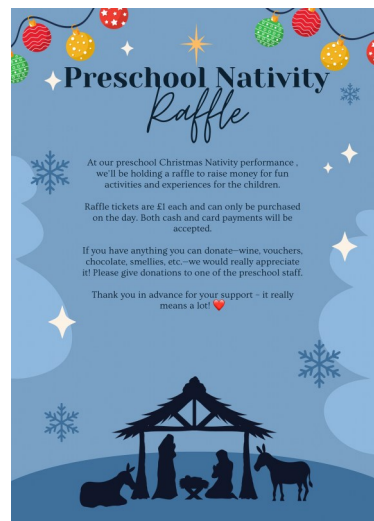
A huge thank you to everyone who's already supported our Waitrose Community Matters Appeal! Newton Poppleford Primary School was chosen as one of the local causes – and your green tokens are really adding up. The appeal runs for the next few months, so please keep going! Each time you shop at Waitrose, pop your green tokens into the Newton Poppleford Primary School section.

1st place wins £1,500

2nd place wins £1,000

3rd place wins £500

Every token helps us raise vital funds for our school – thank you for your continued support!



Dates for the Diary



05/12/2025	Year 5 Swimming Lesson (5 of 6)
06/12/2025	Christmas Fair
09/12/2025	Parent Drop in Café
	Pre School Nativity
	Reception and KS1 Nativity Performance
	PTFA Pre-school nativity Raffle
10/12/2025	Reception and KS1 Nativity Performance
	Year 3 + 4 Multiskills festival
11/12/2025	Christmas Jumper Day
	KS2 Christmas performance 1&2
12/12/2025	Year 5 Swimming Lesson (6 of 6)
16/12/2025	Christmas Dinner
19/12/2025	Last Day of Term
05/01/2026	Start of Term
05/01/2025	Year 3 Swimming Lesson (1of 6)
12/01/2026	Year 3 Swimming Lesson (2 of 6)
14/01/2025	Year 3 Trip
19/01/2026	Year 3 Swimming Lesson (3 of 6)
26/01/2026	Year 3 Swimming Lesson (4 of 6)